GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1951
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
VOTER IDENTITY CARDS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Singh Shri Sitaram

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made by the Election Commission in issuing of Voter Identity Cards;

(b) the percentage of voters to whom Identity Cards have been issued by the Election Commission, State-wise and region wise;

(c) the total cost thereof;

(d) the time by which such Identity Cards are likely to be issued to all the voters; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the anomalies found in preparation of such cards and to display them in electoral list?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. There has been considerable progress in issuing of Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to eligible electors enrolled in the existing electoral roll. At present nearly 69.50% of electors have been provided Electors Photo Identity Cards. A Statement showing State/Union Territory-wise percentage of electorate in the 2004/2005 roll provided with Electors Photo Identity Cards is laid on the Table of the House.

(c): The expenditure on preparation of Electors Photo Identity Cards is shared between the Central and the State Governments on 50:50 basis. A sum of Rs. 542,80,74,000/- has been released to the State Governments as the Government of India`s share of the expenditure on the issuance of Electors Photo Identity Cards.

(d): The Election Commission has stated that the registration of electors is a continuous process, excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process. Therefore, the scheme of issue of EPIC to the registered electors is necessarily a continuous process as every new elector will also have to be covered under the scheme. The Commission has outlined steps to complete issue of EPIC in two phases. It has fixed a threshold limit of 85% coverage in the first phase during which field campaigns for extensive coverage of electors included in the existing roll are launched. The campaign is taken up using a targeted approach. In the second phase, those States/UTs, where threshold target of 85% has been achieved, go in to the Maintenance Mode for issuing EPICs to residual electors. In this mode permanent Designated Photography Location (DPL) centers are provided at the district/sub-divisional headquarters. The electors who have either been left out for any reason or those electors who are added to the roll later on are required to go to these Designated Photography Locations to get their cards prepared. It is the endeavour of the Commission to issue EPICs to all the electors enrolled in the electoral rolls at the earliest possible.

(e): The Election Commission has informed that the scheme of EPIC was introduced in 1993 independent of electoral rolls. The EPIC details were not captured in the electoral roll. The Computerisation of Electoral Rolls Programme in 1997 created the basic ground conditions through which integration of EPIC with the electoral rolls became possible. Accordingly, the Commission issued revised guidelines in May 2000 for EPIC programme detailing technical specifications and implementation strategy that envisaged its full and complete integration with the programme of Computerisation of electoral rolls. Thereafter, intensive revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken in 2002 and 2003 in all States/Union territories, except Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura to update the rolls as well as to capture the EPIC number in the electoral roll to synchronize the electoral database with that of EPIC. The Enumerators visited every house and collected the names of all eligible persons and also the EPIC numbers of the persons already possessing such cards. The same strategy is being followed during the current intensive revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01-01-2005 as the qualifying date in the six North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir. In Arunachal Pradesh the above mentioned strategy would be followed during the next intensive revision to be undertaken w.r.t. 01.01.2006 as the qualifying date.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) of the LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1951 FOR ANSWER ON 5.8.2005.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

STATUS FOR THE PROGRESS OF ELECTOR'S PHOTO IDENTITY CARD

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Total electors w.r.t. 1.1.2004	Electors issued with defect-free electoral roll	% of EPIC issued Identity Cards
		Total electors w.r.t. 1.1.2005 electoral roll#		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52,215,678#	39,395,792	75.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	624,086	304,822	48.84
3	Assam	14,995,084	67,479	0.45
4	Bihar	#52,651,751	29,964,656	56.91
5	Chattisgarh	13,691,885	9,620,499	70.26
6	Goa	#952,723	773,942	81.23
7	Gujarat	#33, 847,275	24,807,957	73.29
8	Haryana	#12,642,552	11,187,854	88.49
9	Himachal Pradesh	#4,159,962	3,053,116	73.39
10	Jammu and Kashmir	6,345,696	3,198,936	50.41
11	Jharkhand	#17,736,462	10,690,664	60.28
12.	Karnataka	#39,947,927	30,766,798	77.02
13	Kerala	#20,824,302	20,817,124	99.97
14	Madhya Pradesh	38,386,651	27,254,099	71.00
15.	Maharashtra	62,667,450	44,455,999	70.94
16.	Manipur	#1,667,729	786,907	47.18
17.	Meghalaya	#1,335,812	1,033,575	77.37
18.	Mizoram	#559,132	405,785	72.57
19.	Nagaland	1,040,347	723,749	69.57
20	Orissa	#26,231,561	20,701,672	78.92
21	Punjab	#16,659,243	12,025,689	72.19
22	Rajasthan	#34,751,347	26,900,347	77.41
23.	Sikkim	#288,674	220,297	76.31
24.	Tamil Nadu	47,204,675	34,474,455	73.03
25.	Tripura	#2,130,299	1,610,496	75.60
26.	Uttar Pradesh	110,284,179	63,895,986	57.94
27.	Uttaranchal	#5,640,034	3,938,864	69.84
28.	West Bengal	#48,085,522	40,862,587	84.98
29.	A and N Island	#250,191	210,714	84.22
30.	Chandigarh	#563,610	288,389	51.17
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	#126,256	83,615	66.23
32.	Daman & Diu	#80,961	59,847	73.92
33.	Lakshadweep	#39,892	35, 564	89.15
34.	NCT of Delhi	8, 748,816	5,699,482	65.15
35.	Pondicherry	636,022	636,022	100.00
	Total	678,013,786	470,953,779	69.46

Note: The electoral roll for the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Isalands and NCT of Delhi w.r.t. 1.1.2005 as the qualifying date are yet to be finally published. In respect of Arunchal Pradesh, no revision w.r.t. 1.1.2005 is being undertaken In view of the above, the column 2 of the above Table contains the figures of electors in relation to abovesaid States/UTs w.r.t. 1.1.2004 as qualifying date.